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VB

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/302,024	04/29/99	HODGSON	J P31353-

HM12/0911

ATTN: ALLEN BLOOM ESQ  
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1717 ARCH STREET  
PHILADELPHIA PA 19103-2793

EXAMINER

KERR, K

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1652

14

DATE MAILED: 09/11/00

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
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SERIAL NUMBER	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.

EXAMINER	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED:

Please find below a communication from the EXAMINER in charge of this application

Commissioner of Patents

see attached action

KMK

September 5, 2000

Art Unit: 1652

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Application Status***

1. An amendment was filed on August 17, 2000, which amended the instant specification.

Claims 28-47 are pending in the instant application.

### ***Withdrawn Objections to the Specification***

2. The previous objections to the specification because of the informalities (5a-b in Paper No. 12) are withdrawn by virtue of applicants' amendments to the instant specification.

### ***Status of Pending Objections/Rejections***

3. All previous pending objections/rejections have been withdrawn by virtue of applicants' amendments to the specification.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

4. Claims 28-47, drawn to methionyl tRNA synthetase polypeptides (i.e. SEQ ID NO: 2) and compositions thereof, are deemed allowable subject matter by virtue of a thorough review of the prior art. The closest prior art to applicants' claims is GenBank Accession No. S16682 which is a *Bacillus stearothermophilus* tRNA ligase (also called tRNA synthetase) polypeptide. This polypeptide has a maximum of 17 consecutive residues of applicants' SEQ ID NO: 2 and

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approximately 65% overall sequence identity with applicants' SEQ ID NO: 2. Thus, applicants' claims to 95% identity and as few as 30 consecutive residues are free of the prior art.

*Prosecution Suspension*


5. Claims 28-47 are allowable. However, due to a potential interference, *ex parte* prosecution is SUSPENDED.

*Conclusion*

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the Examiner should be directed to Dr. Kathleen M. Kerr whose telephone number is (703) 305-1229. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Mr. Ponnathapura Achutamurthy, can be reached on (703) 308-3804. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-0294.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

  
PONNATHAPU ACHUTAMURTHY  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600

KMK

September 5, 2000